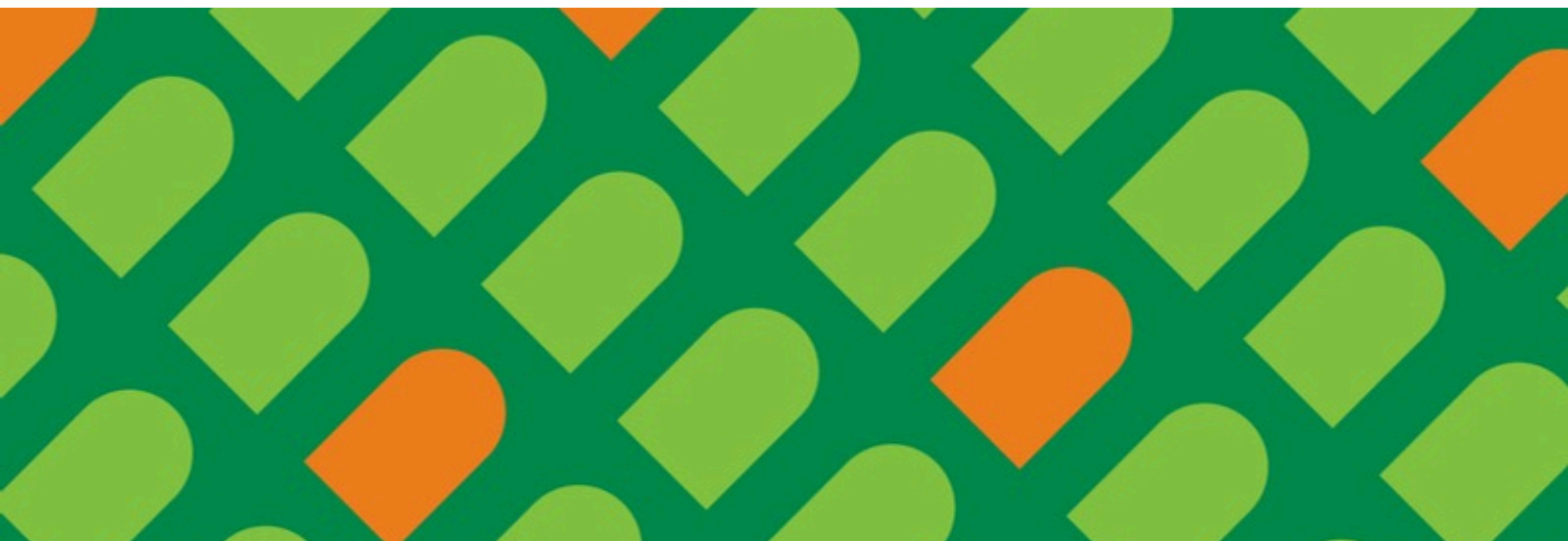
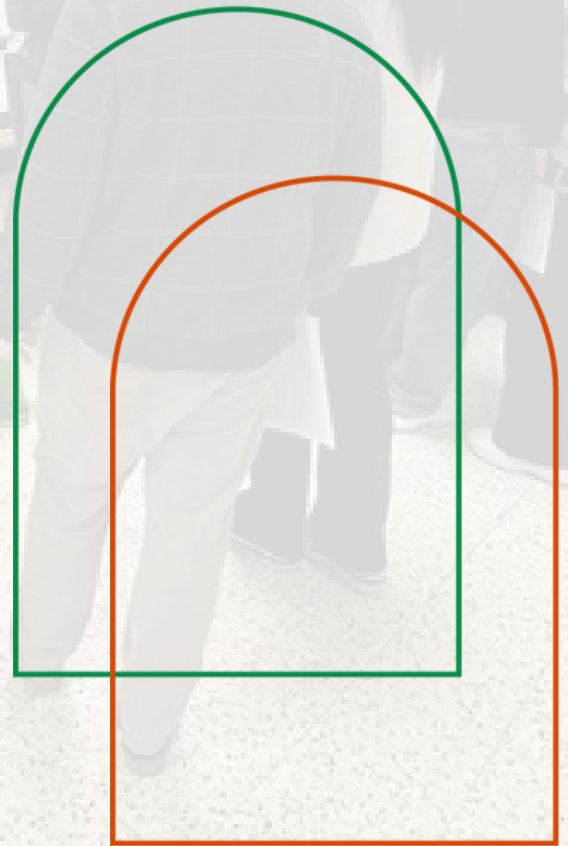




YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES

Annual Report 2024-2025





Get help.
Get hired.
Get enrolled.
Get funded.
Get trained.
Get ready.
Get registered.



yves

YOUTH
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT **2**

LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **3**

MEET OUR TEAM **5**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **6**

WHO WE ARE **7**

WHAT WE DO **9**

MEET OUR CLIENTS **11**

CLIENT SUCCESSES **12**



YES MANITOBA CORE
PROGRAM **14**

EDUCATION PROGRAM **15**

FUTURES FORWARD
PROGRAM **16**

OTHER INITIATIVES **17**

MACD AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE **18**

OUR DONORS **20**



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The offices of Youth Employment Services Manitoba (YES Manitoba) occupy the stolen ancestral territories of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Ithiniwak, Denesuline, Anishininiwak, Dakota Oyate and Nakota Peoples and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. The land falls under Treaty 1, which was signed in 1871 and facilitated the theft of this land from several local Anishinaabe First Nations.

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and learn on these lands. However, a land acknowledgement is only a small step in the right direction when moving towards learning the truth and committing to reconciliation.

The work we do at YES Manitoba often interacts very directly with the processes and lasting impacts of colonial violence. The lives of many of our clients have been very directly and personally impacted by the residential school system; the disproportionate violence that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals face; the police and prison system; violent extraction of resources; and intergenerational systemic oppression. Many of our clients have been wards of CFS. Many might not need our services if not for the lasting traumas of colonization. Many of the jobs available to our clients do not encourage or allow them to resist systems of colonial violence, and some of them perpetuate and continue it. YES Manitoba is dedicated to expanding our knowledge related to the ongoing colonization taking place in Canada, and continuing to learn its impact on our participants and community.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ERIKA SEIDLER

When I reflect on my time with YES Manitoba thus far, I feel grateful for all the experiences and lessons I have gained. To be a part of an organization that has been a main stay in our community for over 50 years is truly a privilege. Lately, I have been focusing on our consistency amidst my strategic efforts to remain relevant in this fast-changing world, engage youth with fresh ideas, and attract potential donors and funders.

YES Manitoba has been consistently serving our community for over 50 years. When youth join our community we offer a welcoming and comfortable experience, providing what some see as basic services, yet for others, it's a crucial step toward earning their first paycheck.

What I appreciate about YES Manitoba is that we thrive by offering essential services in a friendly, inclusive, and non-judgmental environment. We are successfully supporting youth, boosting the local economy, and maintaining a thriving community space they can rely on.

Over the past five years, there has been a shift in how employment looks and what skills are sought after. The job market is saturated, and every job posting has competition. A reality for a young person that continues to hinder their job search is they are generally lacking experience. They are simply young and beginning their career paths. The qualifications required in employment creates barriers to entry-level work, such as the amount of experience needed or additional certifications required like a driver's license. This year has been particularly challenging for those seeking their first job. Consistently applying for jobs only to be met with silence each time. This has a profound impact on a person's confidence and overall perspective as it relates to entering the workforce.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As of April 2025, the unemployment rate for youth in Manitoba sat at 10.3%, nearly double the total overall unemployment rate of 5.3%. Unemployment rates have risen sharply throughout Canada in the past year, not just in Manitoba. With drastic changes in our economy, the labour market has taken a hit and unfortunately young people are often to first to feel it and the last to recover.

It's not solely about securing jobs and gaining skills; it also involves the broader structural support and the environment that young people are entering. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach with the collaboration of various stakeholders, including employers, government support, and organizations like YES Manitoba, all of whom are essential for driving change. The services and supports we provide are more essential than ever in reshaping narratives and empowering youth to stay optimistic about their career paths.

In November 2024, through the Manitoba Association for Career Development, YES Manitoba was the recipient of "Leadership in Career and Workforce Development" award. By receiving this award we were recognized as leaders in the career development community for our innovative programming and the dedication of our skilled professionals. Our team is grateful for this award and we look forward to building on our strengths while enhancing our services to better serve our community and youth in the coming year.

I sincerely appreciate all our funders, stakeholders, and partners for their vital support that keeps YES Manitoba a cornerstone of our community. Investing in the growth and development of young people is unparalleled, and I take pride in being part of an organization that champions their support in our province.

ERIKA SEIDLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEET OUR TEAM

CURRENT STAFF

Erika Seidler Executive Director

Ashley Demery Office Manager

George Abdou Employment Facilitator

Dora Kenny Employment Facilitator

Evan Forest Employment Facilitator

Debora Carvalho Resource Area Assistant

Vacant Communications & Special Projects Coordinator

Frances Amara Education Program Coordinator

Devin Bray Program Manager, Futures Forward

Alex Klassen Outreach Coordinator, Futures Forward

Jason Fillmore Student Support Case Manager, Futures Forward

Jade Richardson Post-Secondary Education Advisor, Futures Forward

PREVIOUS STAFF: 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

Christina McKay Student Support Case Manager, Futures Forward

Angelika Tria Employment Facilitator

Chantelle Chernick Employment Facilitator, Futures Forward

Jenna Drabble Program Manager, Futures Forward

Nikki Alvarez Employment Facilitator

Danni Mesojednik BEST Program Specialist

Elizabeth D'Alessio Communications and Special Projects Coordinator

Tiffany Gilbert Employment Program Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ty Kushnir Chair

Christopher Boiteau-Marr Vice Chair

Spencer Libbrecht Secretary/Treasurer

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Taiwo Luro

Ryan McWhirter

Caryn Birch

Bonnie Chwartacki

Meghan Reid

Vanessa Rozmus

Kevin Williams

Laura Forsythe





WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION

To empower Manitoba's youth to secure meaningful employment and contribute to our province's growth and prosperity.

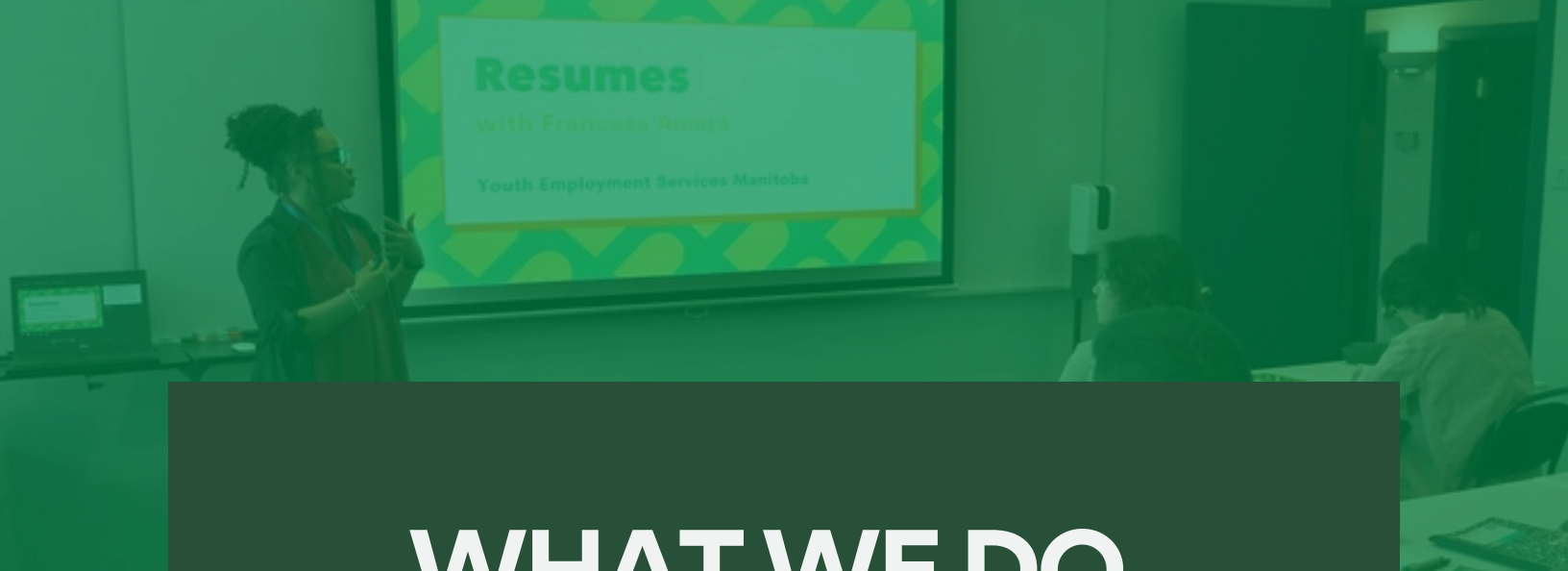
OUR MISSION

YES Manitoba provides inclusive employment services for youth between 16 and 29. Our purpose is to prepare youth in realizing their potential to become self-sufficient.

OUR VALUES

- Collaboration
- Community-enabled self-sufficiency
- Support
- Respect
- Relevance in service





WHAT WE DO

EMPOWERING YOUTH ON THEIR EMPLOYMENT JOURNEYS

YES Manitoba offers free, inclusive employment and education support services to young Manitobans between the ages of 16 to 29. We empower youth by providing a safe and supportive environment where they can learn new skills, develop confidence in themselves, and feel supported during their transition to meaningful employment. We help create opportunities for youth to become engaged members of their community, and contribute to our province's growth and prosperity.

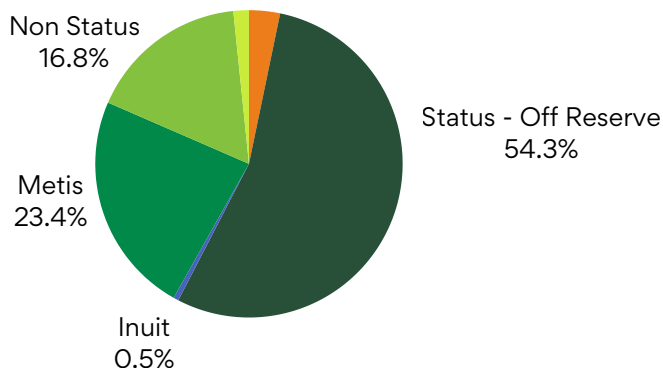
Read about our core programming, as well as about our partnerships with community organizations.



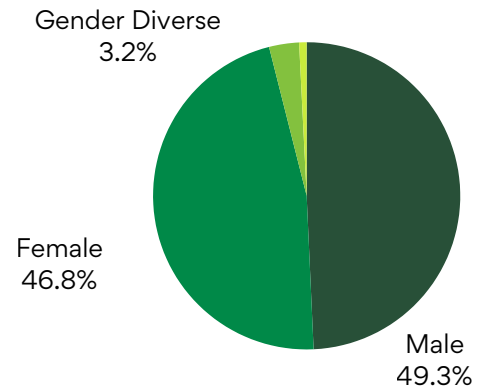
MEET OUR CLIENTS

YES Manitoba helps a variety of clients between ages 16 to 29, from many different walks of life. We welcome clients who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, as Indigenous, as a visible minority, new to Canada, or living with a disability. Our clients have received a variety of education levels, from no formal education to Master's degrees. We take our clients' unique situations and offer assistance specific to their needs.

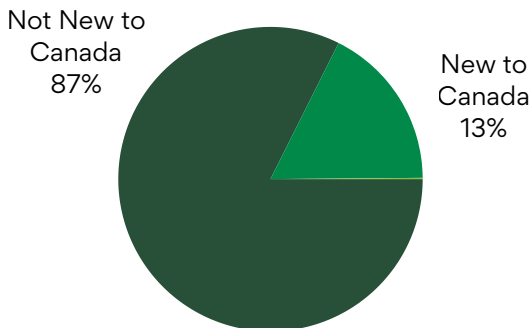
INDIGENOUS STATUS



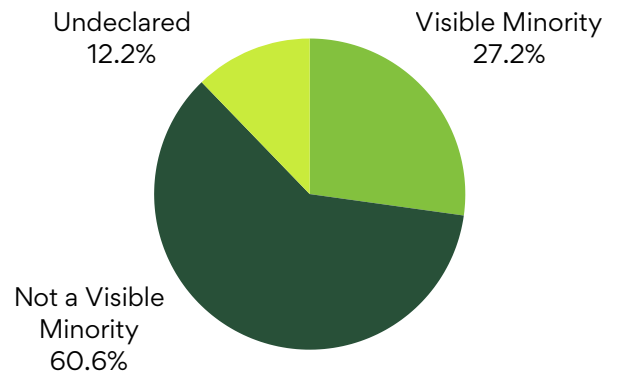
GENDER



NEW TO CANADA



VISIBLE MINORITY



24%

ARE INDIGENOUS

27%

ARE PART OF A VISIBLE
MINORITY

18%

ARE NEW TO CANADA

3%

IDENTIFY AS
GENDER DIVERSE

12%

IDENTIFIED LIVING WITH
A DISABILITY

24%

ARE RECEIVING EIA
ASSISTANCE

CLIENT SUCCESSES

Pierce came to YES facing a common challenge; despite his education and training, he struggled to find a company willing to hire him due to his lack of formal work experience.


During his first meeting at YES, the focus was on highlighting Pierce's volunteer work and the valuable transferrable skills he had gained through his education, with his resume being revamped to emphasize these strengths. Pierce shared his discomfort with cold-calling employers and applying in person, however Pierce was open to practicing cold-calling at his next appointment with the support of his Employment Facilitator.

One of the employers Pierce reached out to expressed genuine interest in his qualifications, provided her email and later followed up to book an interview. Pierce later shared that he secured his first part-time position with Cineplex!



PIERCE

...I just want to thank you for everything and teaching me things I did not know before which helped me get my first interview. I will keep going if I am not hired but thank you again.



CLIENT SUCCESSES

Jaqueline joined YES due to challenges in securing full-time position. She expressed strong interest in pursuing a career in an elementary school setting, where she could apply her skills in a professional environment.


Her resume and cover letter were specifically tailored for entry level roles within education, and she was consistently encouraged to continue applying for relevant opportunities.

Through YES, Jaqueline enhanced her qualifications by completing certifications in First Aid, WHMIS and Customer Service. After a month of diligent job searching, she successfully secured a full-time position with the Winnipeg School Division.



JAQUELINE

"Thank you so much for all your help! I really needed your encouragement and kind words. I've been telling my kids that I couldn't have gotten this job without YES."



YES MANITOBA CORE PROGRAM

YES Manitoba provides a range of employment and training services for youth aged 16-29. For participants in our program, success is defined by securing employment or enrolling in education or training.

Youth seeking employment support can register by filling out an intake form and requesting to meet with an Employment Facilitator (EF). The EF conducts assessments of each participant's unique needs and collaborates with them to develop a personalized action plan tailored to their goals and circumstances.

This year, we exceeded our goals and welcomed 761 new youth to YES Manitoba for services - an increase of 40% compared to last year. Of our participants, 195 enrolled in further education or training (12% increase), and 225 achieved full- or part-time employment (6% increase).

While engaging in community outreach, YES Manitoba delivered 250 information sessions, workshops and presentations - a 273% increase from the previous year. Through these efforts, we connected with 5,541 individuals who had never heard of YES Manitoba before - representing a 76% increase in first-time engagement.

761

NEW CLIENTS

195

ENROLLED IN FURTHER
EDUCATION OR TRAINING

225

ACHIEVED FULL OR PART
TIME EMPLOYMENT

250

INFORMATION SESSIONS

5,541

UNIQUE TOUCH POINTS

EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Education program delivers career development and pre-employment workshops directly to classrooms within Manitoba, supporting youth as they begin to explore the world of work and define their goals and aspirations. Workshop content is designed to complement the provincial curriculum, offering practical information and resources that help students better understand their career paths and opportunities.

While the material teaches key employment concepts, the true value often lies in the meaningful connections our Education Program Coordinator builds with students - meeting them where they are and engaging them in a relatable and accessible way.

Community outreach plays a vital role in raising awareness about YES Manitoba and building connections with future participants. As a consistent presence in high schools, whether workshops or career fairs, YES Manitoba proudly showcases its programs and resources to support the workforce of tomorrow.

Over the last fiscal year, we partnered with over 123 schools and community agencies and delivered 94 presentations, engaging with a total of 2,488 students. These efforts continue to strengthen our reach and impact among Manitoba's youth.

123

CONNECTIONS

94

WORKSHOPS

2,488

PARTICIPANTS

FUTURES FORWARD

Futures Forward is a collaborative program that provides comprehensive support and services to youth transitioning out of the child welfare system. The program is delivered through a partnership between YES Manitoba, the Canadian Mental Health Association - Manitoba and Winnipeg, and Community Financial Counselling Services.

Though modest in size, Futures Forward is a powerful initiative. At full capacity, a dedicated team of 10 staff members across the three partner organizations work to support the hundreds of young people exiting care each year.

In collaboration with our partners, we provided the following services:

- 233 low-barrier individual counseling sessions
- 93 education-related sessions
- 115 financial appointments, including tax filing and financial counselling
- 111 service navigation sessions, supporting youth with service planning, ID acquisition, or referrals to community resources
- 28 cultural ceremonies
- 150 community outreach events

YES Manitoba provided employment services to 177 youth through a single Futures Forward Employment Facilitator. This year, 984 youth registered for the program with 75% identifying as Indigenous.

This year, **55 youth** reported gaining employment - averaging over one per week and **256 youth** registered for education or training.

151 new applications were submitted for the **Youth-in-Care Tuition Waiver Program**, with **161 awards and renewals** received by students.

Most proudly, **25 Tuition Waiver recipients graduated** from their programs over the year, which we were happy to celebrate during our annual graduation party.

233

INDIVIDUAL,
COUNSELLING SESSIONS

93

EDUCATION RELATED
SESSIONS

115

FINANCIAL RELATED
APPOINTMENTS

28

CULTURAL CEREMONIES

150

OUTREACH EVENTS

177

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
APPOINTMENTS

55

FOUND EMPLOYMENT

256

REGISTERED FOR FURTHER
EDUCATION OR TRAINING

OTHER INITIATIVES

HUDDLE MANITOBA

Huddle Manitoba is an initiative of the Government of Manitoba, together with United Way Winnipeg and other philanthropic partners. Huddle locations provide a safe space for youth to access services from a range of providers in areas of mental health, substance use, and more, with the intent to get youth more connected to the support they may need. YES Manitoba's Employment Facilitators provide drop-in job-searching, resume, interview and career planning advice to participants of Huddle Broadway and Huddle Norwest on a regular basis.

HARVEST MANITOBA - WAREHOUSE TRAINING PROGRAM

Harvest Manitoba's Warehouse Training Program combines classroom learning, hands-on work at their warehouse facility and exposure to practical work environments over the course of 6-weeks. Trainees graduate with industry-standard warehouse skills required for entry-level employment in distribution centres, warehouses and the retail sector. YES Manitoba staff provide workshops and assistance with resume and cover letter creation, as well as host mock interviews with trainees of the program. YES Manitoba is also one of the organizations that can refer participants into the program.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

YES Manitoba continues to support post-secondary institutions in hosting students for their practicum placements. These are mutually-beneficial partnerships where students can gain work experience in their program of study, while also supporting the organization in day-to-day operations or new projects. This year, we welcomed students from the University of Manitoba, MITT, Booth UC and RRC Polytech. One student in particular, created a Resource Guide which outlines contact information and processes for accessing services across a range of providers. Another student, after completing her placement and graduating from her program, continued to support the organization through volunteering on a part-time basis. We are grateful to have the opportunity to mentor those who are interested in a community organization and provide real opportunities for growth and development of students!

MACD AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Leadership in Career & Workforce Development

The Manitoba Association for Career Development (MACD) hosts a Career Development Awards of Excellence program with a goal of recognizing individuals and organizations that have contributed to the overall advancement of career and workforce development in Manitoba.

In November 2024 YES Manitoba was the recipient of the Leadership in Career and Workforce Development Award.



Nominated by Deanna England, Academic & Career Advisor at the University of Winnipeg, the following key areas were highlighted in her submission:

- Advancement of career development through research, theory, practice and/or leadership
- Innovation and creativity in program development and/or service delivery
- Leadership and vision within the organization and/or career development community
- Development and support of ongoing professional learning opportunities
- Caring and competent professionals whose knowledge, skills and talents are valued by clients and colleagues

We are grateful for this award and look forward to building on our strengths while enhancing our services to better serve our community and youth in the coming year.

MACD AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Leadership in Career & Workforce Development



OUR DONORS



Funding Provided by:

The Government of Canada

The Manitoba Government

11

614-294 PORTAGE AVE
WINNIPEG, MB R3C 0B9

PHONE: 204.987.8661

FAX: 204.942.8262

EMAIL: RECEPTION@YESMB.CA



YESMB.CA



@YESMANITOBA



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